[Shri Jagesh Desai]

schemes so that these amounts are not withdrawn. Otherwise, I fear, at the end of the year, there may be such heavy withdrawals that it will be difficult for you to make your budgctry provisions in this regard. I would like to say another two-three points. We have to encourage savings. Resources are required. You have reduced income tax rates. I hope that you may not get the same amount but something more than what you got because of the inflation. But if the scheme is that we are again going to reduce the rate of income tax, I do not agree. At the same time, we have to see such schemes. At the present, you are giving Rs. 40,000 by way of investment in public provident fund etc. for deduction under section 80-C. Rs. 40,000 limit you have kept. I feel a time has come when we should increase it to Rs. 60,000 and secondly for the 6,000 you are giving 6,000, for the next six thousand, you are giving 50 percent and on balance 40 percent. I feel that time has come if you want that resources are to be mobilised, then you have to change these slabs. First ten thousand will be given in full, next ten thousand should be given at 50 percent and balance at 40 percent. If it is done, honest tax payers, who want to pay tax, they will save the amount and Government will get resources and that is why I take this opportunity, once again, to request the Government that you should ponder over this scheme and increase this exemption under 30C. For national savings certificate, a separate scheme should be there. The whole amount of interest in National Savings Certificates, it may be Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 30,000, you must allow full deduction so that we can, give the encouragement for this reason. Secondly, I think, the Government is thinking to increase the limit to Rs. 20,000, but what is Rs. 20,000. If I put the money in *e National Savings certificates, after 12 years, it ma$_v$ become Rs. 40,000. While framing rules, you have to state that it is the face value of Rs. 20.000 and not the encashment valuc [You must make it a point that it should be a face value and not the value which is to be paid at the time of maturity. With these word;, I support this Bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: we have four more speakers on this Bill and if the House desires, we can finish it by 1.30 P.M. If the House [1] desires, we can sit late and the nister reply can be short. After lunch, it is a private members day. Si, it will spill over either at 0.00 P.M or 6.30 P.M. or on Monday.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN; 5-00.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; At 5.00 the prime Minister is going to make a statement.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN; We can take it up at 5-30.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; All right. The House is adjourned for lunch till 2-30. pm.

The House then adjouned for lunch at eleven mi 'past one of the clock.

The House reassembled, after at thirty two minutes past two clock, The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

RESOLUTION RE. APPOINTMENT OF A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO GO INTO THE WORKING OF BANKS—contd.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT (Madhya Pradesh): Madam D Chairman, the resolution of Shri Ramakrishnan has been thoroughly gone into. We have examined all its aspects. As one connecter the banking industry and those thousands of employees working there,

I can say that nationalisation of banks in 1969 by our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, was a revolutionary step. It was a step aimed at taking the country's economic growth to greater heights. It was also concerned with how best the lot of the common man could be improved. At the time there were about 4,000 branches all over the country and the total money in the banks was Rs. 800 crores. Now, after sixteen years of nationalisation, there are about 40,000 branches in the country and the deposits have also considerably increased.

Madam, if we take a look at the working of the banking ^ industry, there is no doubt that it has contributed a great deal to the economic growth and development of the country. All the same, nobody can say that any scheme just introduced can be foolproof. After all, we are all human beings and always our intention is to make the best of a given situation. The banking industry after nationalisation has really played a pivotal role in our developmental activity. The honourable Member demanded that there should be accountability. I fail to understand that in a democratic society such as ours how anybody can escape from accountability.

Now, Madam,, there are ways and ways of judging accountability. In this particular case, the Estimates Committee has already gone into the question and examined the working of the banks and it has made some valuable recommendations. The suggestion is that there should be a separate Committee of Parliament to go into the working of the banking industry. Madam, the banking industry is a commercial venture and we know how the different banks are working in different parts of the world. Everyday we hear that certain parties or certain individuals are having accounts in foreign banks and particular mention is made of the Swiss banks. Now, what i_s the point in this? The banking institutions have to maintain a certain amount of secrecy. Alter all, a bank is a commerical organisation, a business organisation, and, therefore, it cannot have the same standards which a Government department or any other undertaking can have. Since it is a commerical organisation, it has to have its own policy, it has to have a certain amount of manoeu-vreability, so that it can attract more and more customers and more end more money. Now, if there is a sep-rate Committee of Parliament only for studying or going into the working of the nationalised banks, I am afraid'. Madam, we will be going too for since, as I said earlier, it is only a commercial organisation and it has *to* work on its own. The banks cannot function like any other Government department. They are, as I said earlier, commerical organisations and they should function as such, extending more and more facilities and benefits to the customers. Now, Madam, in a vast country like ours, where we havt got a population of about seven hundred million, the banks have not been able to reach the commonman. In the years to come, the bank branches have to be expanded. Today we have got about forty thousand branches and if there has to be one branch to cater to a population of one thousand people then the number of branches will have to be increased further, Now, if the banks have to work and operate in the way it is wanted now, then it would be very difficult and it would be impracticable. Rather it would create obstacles in the functioning of the banks. I say this because we may have our-own objections, we may have our own viewpoints and we may have our own suggestions. But there are ways-and ways of doing this and there are many forums through which these suggestions can be passed and everybody can contribute to the improvement of the banking industry.

Now, Madam, in the banks, we have to give certain priorities. At least every block in the country should have access to a bank. Then, on the

[Shri Nand Kishore Bhatt] cueston of imbalance in the ratio of officers to the other staff, well, this is a matter which i_s disputed. There is section of people which says that the banks are overstaffed and there is also a section of people which says that the banks are understaffed. Now this is a matter which, I do not thinik, can be discussed in a forura like Parliament. Parliament i_s not the place where you can discuss this matter. This is purely a matter of im?tnag(*rial* function. The Reserve Bank of India and the Finance Ministry are involved in the overall supervision of the working of the different banks, these questions have to be discussed there only. They frame general guidelines and, for the purpose, they have got the Indian Banks' Association. It is the Indian Banks' Association which is the apex body of all the nationalised banks which generally gives the guidelines to all the nationalised banks and in case there are any difficulties in the implementation of the guidelines, they are discussed in the forum of the Indian Banks' Association.

Something has been said about the working of the Directors also. There are Government Directors also in the banks. They are generally the nominees of the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India, which is the administrative bank for all the nationalised banks and other banking institutions in the country, is having its representatives in all the banks. The$_v$ are having their representatives in all the banks. Then there are ether interests which have been mentioned in the Act which was passed at the time of nationalisation—social interests, commercial interests, customers' interests, workers' interests and so on—all these interests have to *he* protected. Unfortunately, with the best of intentions of the Govern-men, these Directors did not function properly, and I do concede that they have not brought good name and they have not added to the efficient functioning of the banks. I am happy to note that the hon. Finance Minister and his able colleague, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, have a policy, according to which they are going to ensure that all those who are appointed as Directors of various banks show some accountability, and there will be people who will look into the various aspects which have been mentioned in this Resolution.

Mention has been made , about frauds. Madam Deputy Chairman, it is really a sorry state of affairs that very often we hear about malpractices in banks. For that I do not think there is. something basically wrong with the policy. The wrong lies in th6 implementation of these 'policies. This morning Jin the papers we have read that some dacoits and miscreants entered into a bank and took over money. This is *a* matter of law and order, and I think it would be appropriate that the Finance Ministry in consultation with the Home Ministry evolves some method by which banks can be looked after, moneys can be taken care of and, at the same time, adequate security can be given to the staff, officers and . If some people come with revolvers and pistols, naturally they cannot help. But just as in other countries they have some fool-proof system where malpractices and frauds can be avoided, I would urge upon the Finance Minister this time that now when they want the banking industry to enter into a new era, when it is preparing itself to accept greater challenges, the Government must find out as to how best security can be given and these banks can be made free from all such difficulties. (*Time bell rings)*

Madam. Deputy Chairman, whatever has been mentioned in the R*s-oluation by Shri Ramakrishana, with the best of intentions, I fail to understand why an experienecd parliamentarian like him suggested that a separate committee may go into the working of the banking industry when we have got the estimates Com-

mittee; In fact, we have got three financial committees the Estimates Committee, the public Accounts Com mittee and the Committee on Public Undertakings. They are doing their lobs.

I With these words. I would urge upon Shri Ramakrishnan to give a second thought to what he was stated in the Resolution and withdraw the Resolution in the sense that we have given suggestions to the Government and the Government must come for- ' ward, particularly in the matter of staff, in the matter of ensuring security to those who are working in banks, in the matter of stopping frauds here and here, etc. And that can be done not by a Resolution but by urging upon the Government that they should come forward with a heavy hand to deal with these matters .

With these words, I thank you, Madam Deputy Chairman, for giving me this opportunity.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Sankar Prasad Mitra.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, I thought of taking part in this debate because I know that the hon. Minister, Shri Janardhan Poo- jari, is responsive to suggestions made in this House.

The main Resolution complains of three things. No. 1, increasing number of frauds and other malpractices; No 2, numerous instances of dacoities and No. 3, uniformity of pay scales and service conditions. Nationalisation has undoubtedly ' done a good deal of good to the country. It has • conferred benefits on the poorer and weaker sections of the people. There cannot he an$_{v}$ denial of these facts. But there are dark features as well and those dark features, at any rate some of them, have sought to I be highlighted in this Resolution. | Sixteen years have already passed. Some attempts should have been made to secure uniformity of pay scales and service conditions by now. These were different banks to start with. They we're taken over. All these banks had their' own pay scales and service conditions. But now that they are all nationalised banks some kind of uniformity has to be reached.

Coming to the first proposition, *viz.* increasing number of frauds and other malpractices, we are aware that advances that are made to parties arc sometimes small advances and often large advances. With regard to small advances, the Government has given a direction that up to a particular sum you make advances without caring fo$_{r}$ securities, without too much enquiries about the general reputation because the intension is to confer benefits on the weaker and poorer sections of the community. It is the large advances which are creating difficulties. In recent times, the Sethia advances have created scandals and scandals are published in news papers almost everyday. Then it is reported that borrowers often open accounts in different nationalised banks at the same time, start withdrawing money from all these banks. Then they open a Current Account or a Savings Bank Account in some other bank and deposit their sale proceeds in that Current Account or Saving Bank Account depriving the overdraft accounts of their dues for repayment. This is due to lack of an effective system amongst these nationalised banks of sharing information in respect of large accounts. Far from any spirit of cooperation as between nationalised hanks, there exists a spirit of competition amongst them and it is this spirit of competition which is creating all the difficulties. Then we find in newspaper reports that in most of these banks and their several branches, quality leadership is conspicuo.es by its absesce. We have newspaper reports that normal methods of appraisal of the payment system and credit schemes are dii-

[Shri Sankar Prasad Mttra] pemed with through the intervention of politicians. Then there was a report, a very valuable report, of a committee which was presided over by a former Member of this House, a very respected Member, Mr. Era Sezhiyan. This Era Sezhiyan Committee Report pointed out amongst others that cases before the Vigilance Coirtmission provided some instances of abuse of power, use of fake records, misappropriation, wrong favours and negligence. The Era Sezhiyan Committee Report recommended strongly that the audit of all nationalised banks should be made through the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. I do not know what has been the reaction of the Government or the Ministry of Finance to this Report. There are also newspaper reports which we read from time to time that Directors of Banks who are not supposed to interfere with day-to-day working of banks in fact, do interfere with the day-to day functioning for favouring specified borrowers. These malpractices have got to be checked, otherwise the country is likely to be defrauded by borrowers, the so-called industrialists and exploiters. And this kind of fraud would go on without effective checks.

The second proposition in the Resolution is the proposition regarding instances of dacoities. As has just been pointed out, there was a robbery in the Bank of India South Delhi branch at Chittaranjan Park day before yesterday. The pattern of these robberies is more or less the same in every case. Armed gangs enter the bank premises, the employees are asked to collect together on points of revolvers or pistols, they are warned against use of any kind of alarms, then the key to the strong-room is demanded, the key has to be hanned over., large amounts of cash are bagged, end then they disappear firing a few rounds in the air creating commotion and terror in the locality. This is more or less the organised pattern of these decoities all over the country.

It is sometimes suggested that these dacoities or robberies cannot take place without the involvement of bank employees in the conspiracy. And it is in collusion with them that these gangs enter the premises and take away large sums of money. But I do not want to make such sweeping observations because a good length of my life has been spent in the Judiciary, and in the absence of concrete evidence I do not want to make any generalised statements. But if there is any truth in this allegation, that truth has to be enquired into. In some of the bank premises we find an armed sentry at the gate. But when a gang of robbers has entered the premises with pistols or revolvers, the armed sentry often becomes helpless and he is naturally unsuccessful in preventing the crime. I was having a discussion with one of the most respected Members of this House, who , is an authority on modern electronics. And he told me that the science of electronics has evolved methods—the Minister for Science and Technology happens to be present here and he may also give some expert advice to the Minister of Finance—and I am told by the electronic expert in our House Prof. Ramachandra Rao, he is not present in the House, that modem electronics have evolved methods of invisible burglar detectors. The burglar will be detected as soon as he enters the premises with weapons and ho will be arrested, unable to move about on the spot. In fact, I have seen such devices in the United States of America long long ago in 1958. I visited the Massechussetes Institute of Technology...

AN HON. MEMBER: How many robberies took place after that in the United States?

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: I am not talking about robberies in the United States. I am talking of advancement in electronics in the United States. These are two different propositions. Whether they use electronics for the purpose of preven- ting dacoity or not, that is the policy

of the Government of the United States with which I am. not concerned. I went to the Massechussetes Institute of Technology and I was taken to the library of music of that Institute. I found an automatic door opener and an automatic closer and there was a computer for recording how many persons are coming into the library and how many are going out. I also remember either in phoenix or in Oklahoma City, I was taken for a drive by a local lawyer and he invited me also to dinner at his residence. When we came to his residence he was sitting in the car in front of his garage. He switched on something and the rolling shutter of garage had opened. The car entered the garage. Then he used another switch and the rolling shutter closed down. I am ignorant about electronics. (Interruptions). ,

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is remote control.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: That is remote control.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have installed it in my house.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: You are a scientist and you must be knowing more about it. *(Interruptions)* .

I do not know whether she knows anything about remote control. Otherwise she would have controlled the heart of Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee and asked him to keep quiet. But these remote centrol switches can be installed at least in the principal banks. I do not say that in 40,000 branches you go on introducing remote control switches, because you won't have the money to spend. But it is worth spending money on electronics to some extent because all of a sudden on a single day by a single operation you are being debunked to the extent of about rupees four, five or ten lakhs. So, it is worthwhile spending some money on these electronic devices for the purpose of detecting robberies and for the purpose of catching these robbers on the spot so that these mischiefs can be prevented. I hope the hon. Minister will apply his mind to this proposition and take expert advice through the good offices of the Minister of State for Science and Technology who is sitting behind him. Some advice may even b» given by an hon. member of this House, Prof. Ramachandra Rao who suggested various points to me during the mid-day recess. I do not know whether he would be participating in this debate. I have no doubt that he would come forward with greater details. I am not a scientist. I cannot give you all the details.

In the operative part of the Resolution the Mover wants a Committee of Members of Parliament and others with a sitting or a retired Supreme Court Judge as the Chairman. Of 3 P.M. course. I do not know how far it is feasible to realise it because it may require invocation of statutory provisions, like Commissions of Enquiry Act or some kind of other statute, or even creation of new statutes I would like to know what policies the hon. Minister has in view to control these two evils which had been pointed out in this Rasnlutioii namely, increasing number of frauds and other malpractices, as well as numerous instances of dacoities in banks.

With these words I conclude my comments on this Resolution and I shall anxiously wait for the hon. Minister's reply.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Madam. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate on the resoluion moved by my freind Mr. Ramakrishnan. The mover while moving his 'resolution himself was in a confusion. He said: 'I am at a loss where to begin.' That was the position of the mover because having tabled a resolution...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not only the money which is lost in the banks.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: The resolution reads: "...despite sixteen years having elapsed since the nationalisation of Banks in the country, they have not ibeen made accountable to parliament in a proper manner." Madam, he is himself a Parliamentarian. He knows how Parliament exercises control on various things, how Parliament functions also. The Parliament functions through va-rious committees also and the Reserve Bank every year gives a report; even the nationalised banks 'reports are here; Auditor General's reports are here, and all these reports are subject to open scrutiny of Members of Parliament and if necessary. Members are entitled to ask questions on the floor of the House and get clarifications. It does not mean that nationalisation has made the banks not accountable. Actually, it is the very purpose of nationalisation to mako the banks accountable to parliament. What was the situation earlier? Before nationalisation, banks were not accountable to Parliament; they managed in their own way; the directors used to manage the banks as their personal property. Even credits were given to the kith and kin and the relatives to start some industry. It was just to have a control over these banks, that nationalisation of banks was thought of by our late lamented Prime Minister Sh'rimati Indira Gandhi, at the cost of a split in the party when the decision was taken, and that has been hailed throughout the country.

Madam, after nationalisation, what is the state of affairs of these banks? In 1969 we had only 9262 branches with deposits of Rs. 4646 crores. Today at this length what my friend refers after sixteen years' what is the position? There are 48.316 branches with deposits of Rs. 75,000 crores. Out of this, there are 21,648 branches in rural areas. In 1969 only 1868 branches were in rural areas; banks were only urban-oriented. They had not been entrusted with the responsibility of the society as a whole that is of socail change: Now they have been entrusted with a new responsibilty. We have to examine and scrutinise how far theese banks have been able to fulfil those functions entrusted after nationalisation. Credit-Deposit ratio which was 37.2 per cent in 1969 has risen to 60.3 per cent in 16 years. My point is that nationalisation has helped the banking industry. And it ha:s not escaped the control or the scrutiny of Parliament.

Coining to the second aspect of the Resolution, Madam, 'increasing number of thefts and other malpractices brought to light from time to time have revealed the unsatisfactory performance of the banks generally and in the matter of advances particularly; that as reported, numerous incidents of dacoity and theft are taking place frequently in the nationalised banks', I would like to point out that nationalisation is not the cause for increasing incidents of dacoity or theft or robbery. It is the picture of the society that we are having. Nationalisation is not the root-cause for these incidents of theft or dacoity or robbery. These incidents have increased not because of nationalisation. In this connection, we should also take into account the fact that these nationalised banks have been asked to undertake some social justice work, to which we are committed. Of course, I agree that these incidents of theft etc. have increased. One of the reasons may be the enormous increase in the number of branches, without the infrastructure, without the banks having the capacity to absorb which was being entrusted to them; because of the enlargement in their scope of operations. The number of branches has gone up from 9.000 to 48,000. Out of this, 22,000 branches are functioning in the rural areas. It is the nature of man. the habit of man, the character of man, the morale of man, which results in

these incidents of theft, dacoity, robbery, fraud, misappropriation, misapplication etc. This is not due to the nationalisation of the banks. Elsewhere, what is the picture? Is it only in the banks? What is the total picture of the society. Thefts are increasing. Dacoities are increasing. Cases of misappropriation are increasing. There is machinery to take care of all these things. Appointing a Parliamentary Committee to go into the affairs of these banks will not solve the problem. Already, we have the Public Undertakings Committee, the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. Have you been able to check thefts, frauds, misappropriations, in all these public sector undertakings? This is not the remedy. What my friend, Mr. Eamakrishnan, is suggesting is not the remedy. If we appoint a Parliamentary Committee under the Chairmanship of a Judge and this Committee brings out a report, is it going to reduce the incidents of theft and misappropriation? It is not the case. Actually, the point is, there are laws to take care of all these things, theft, fraud, misappropriation etc. There are laws. It is not so only in the banks. In the outside society also, such things are happening. Have we been able to check it? How best we " can make them effective? This is more important.

I have the figures with me in regard to frauds in the banks. In 1978, the number was 1422 and the money involved was Rs. 7 crores; embezzlement involved. In 1982, it was 2.065 involving Rs. 14 crores. In 1983, it was 2,360 involving Rs. 29.62. crores. In 1984, it was 2,410 involving Rs. 38 crores. But what is the action taken on this? It is not the responsibility of the banks to proceed further. It is the law enforcement machinery which takes steps... *(Time-bell rings)* Madam, I have not even commented on two clauses. As I said, in 1982. there were 2,065 cases, but the punishment was awarded only in 528 cases. *(Interruptions)* in 1983. out ,of 2,360 cases, punishment was awarded only in respect of 609 cases. In 1984, there were 2410 cases but punishment awarded is only in cases of 700. This is not the mistake of the banks. The frauds have been identified; banks have reported these frauds; the punishment is to be awarded by the law-enforcing machinery, the various courts, the various police departments. They have not been prompt in taking action. The ball is somewhere else. The banks have promptly reported. The auditors have promptly reported that there is a fraud in the bank. But how far the action has been taken is the question.

So the procedure has to be looked into; that should be strengthened, that should be made effective as well as more deterrent. This is the only way how we can avoid these frauds. The law enforcing machinery should be made effective and if necessary, we have to change the procedure, make them subject to summary trial instead of giving adjournments and taking adjournments and lengthening the process.

Yesterday we have passed the ESMA Bill. There also the rights of the employees to some extent and the number of unions come in the way of effective working of the banks. Likewise the law enforcing machinery is very slow and thereby effective action is not being taken on these fra-auds.

The next clause says:

"despite most of the Banks performing the same functions there is no uniformity of pay scales and service conditions amongst the officers and employees of these Banks."

Madam, this has got a historical background. On the date if nationalisation, there were different banks working under different norms, under different managements. Those employees have been absorbed.

[Shri H. Hanumanthappa]

It is not that we have started all new banks all afresh with regular rules. Actually there were banks in existence; there were service rules in existence; there were pay scales in existence. These have been nationalised. Even among the banks, there are different categories of banks— the Apex Banks, the Nationalised Banks, the Regional Rural Banks, the Cooperative Banks, NABARD, IDBI and such other financial institutions also. Taking the nature of functions that these financial institutions are performing their pay structures are different. It may not be possible to bring uniformity in the pay structures and the scales of pay. Over and above this, each banking institution has got a very strong union to take care of themselves. A number of times they have violated bilateral agreements. And it is not a case of ill-payment to these bank employees. Actually they are well paid when compared to the other employees of the Central Government or the State Governments. There may not be uniformity in pay scales, but that does not mean that they are ill-paid. They are well-paid and they are well organised and they are capable of taking their cases to any extent. A number of cases have gone to the Supreme Court. They have got the instrument of negotiating machinery; they have got he support of the industrial law. They can negotiate. The Parliamentary Committee need not interfere because they have got a very strong union in every bank. They are capable of doing it. We have given laws; this Parliament has made laws strengthening them, giving them the support. The unions are capable of taking up their causes and settling them across the table through bilateral agreements.

Lastly, Madam, it says:

> "this House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of member's of Parliament along with some other experts.... under the chairmanship of a sitting or retired Supreme Court Judge to enquire into the activi- . .ties------" etc.

As I said at the outset, Parliament has got various methods to exercise control and we have got checks and counter-checks. The Reserve Bank of India has a High Powered Committee to go into the affairs of these banks. Then they have got their auditing system. Over and above that, Parliamentary Committee goes into the details and we have got various reports also laid on the Table of the House, so that there is no necessity to form a Parliamentary Committee.

Having said this, I want to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister that he should look into the working of the banks also. I am thankful to the Mover of the Resolution for having brought it because it gives us an opportunity to introspect, to verify the functioning of the various banks. Madam, after their nationalization, particularly when Parliament has accepted the economic programmes of this country, under the 20-point Programme we are expecting much more from the nationalized banks. They have been entrusted with the IRDP loans, Self-Employment loans whien form the basis of economic development where we have said that the people living below the poverty line have to be raised above the poverty line. Madam, the hon. Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Janardhan Poojari, is here and he very well knows about the staff in the banks. In several loan *meals* has pointed out the attitude of the bank employees. One thing that is necessary is that they should be straightened up and the banks should be made real service-oriented institutions in order to get the desired results, what we expect from the banks. *{Time-belt rings)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are two more speakers and he has to reply.

SHRI HANUMANTHAPPA: I am .concluding. Madam.

There is one more thing. About these IRDP loans, one point concerns rural development o, self-employment. Here, the subsidy portion of it has become a menace in the implementation of this programme. The subsidy portion attracts corruption. Instead of the subsidy being paid in the beginning—which the bankers and development officials make use of—that can be linked as subsidy to be written off out of the loan. I would request the hon. Minister to consider this aspect in consultation with the Rural Developfent Department:

With these comments, Madam, I conclude m, speech. Thank you.

श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदया, 16 वर्ष पहले बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ, उसके पीछे एक महान उद्देश्य था। माननीय सदस्य बोल रहे थे कि देश के अन्दर मुट्ठी भर पूंजीपति या बड़े उद्योगपति जब प्राइवेट बैंकों में काम कर रहे थे, तो उसमें उनको कोई संकट नहीं था, किसी प्रकार की उनको परेशानी नहीं थी बल्कि सबसे ज्यादा उनको सुविधा थी। राष्ट्रीयकरण करने के बाद जो मनोवृत्ति थी कि हम कल्याणकारी राज्य बनाने जा रहे हैं और देश की गरीब जनता जो है, उसके पास बैंक पहुंचें, वह समझे कि बैंकों में जमा की हुई राशि का उसके जीवन को परिवर्तित करने में कितना योगदान है। अब 16 साल के बाद जनता आज नतीजे पर पहुंच गई है, कोई भी विचार करने के बाद इस नतीजे पर पहुंचेगा। एक बार पूर्ण रीति से उसकी समीक्षा करना आवश्यक है, दोष कहां-कहां पर है, कांटें कहां-कहां पर चुभ रहे हैं, उसकी जानकारी प्राप्त करना आवश्यक है। मैं कुछ उदाहरणों के साथ और जरा अपनी बातों में स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूं। सन् 1977 में बिहार की जिम्मेवारी मेरे ऊपर थी, वित्त मंत्री की हैसियत से जब मैंने देखना शुरू किया, तो क्या देखता हूं कि मात्र 17 प्रतिशत क्रेडिड-रेशो है। यह 7 करोड़ का बिहार और उस पर 78 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे लोग, 85 प्रतिशत जनता गांव में रहती है और क्रेडिट रेशो देखने के बाद दिखाई दे रहा था मात्र 17 प्रतिशत... (**व्यवधान**)... मैं 1977 की बात कर रहा हूं।

आप यह भी जानकारी करके देखें कि बैंक गांव में कितने पहुंचे हैं, छोटे-किसानों के पास कितने पहुंचे हैं, ग्रामीण-कलाकारों के पास कितने पहुंचे हैं, विलेज आर्टीजन के पास कितने पहुंचे हैं तो आश्चर्य लगा देखकर मात्र 6 प्रतिशत। तब से लगातार प्रयत्न करके कुछ वृद्धि हुई है। अब 56-57 प्रतिशत क्रेडिट रेशो बिहार का है। लगभग 8 राज्य और देश के अन्दर हैं जहां क्रेडिट रेशो 40-45-50-60 के आस-पास घूम रहा है। बैंकों के अन्दर लापरवाही बहुत हो रही है। यह भी ठीक है कि राष्ट्रीयकृत होने के बाद भी सभी बैंकों के कर्मचारियों का वेतनमान एक नहीं है, उनकी सुविधाएं एक नहीं है, उनकी व्यवस्था एक नहीं है। होनी चाहिए, आवश्यक है। राष्ट्रीय-करण होने के बाद बैंकों में भी जो एक स्वस्थ प्रतियोगिता की भावना होनी चाहिए उसकी भी कमी दिखाई दे रही है। रुपया जमा करना हो तब घूस देनी पड़ती है, निकालना हो तो घूस देनी पड़ती है, ड्राफ्ट कैश कराना हो तो घूस देनी पड़ती है, ऐसी खराब हालत हो रही है। परेशानी इस पर नहीं है कि राष्ट्रीयकरण क्यों किया गया, लेकिन उसके बाद जो खामियां आ गई हैं उनको कैसे दूर किया जाये, इस पर विचार करना है।

महोदया, मैं एक और उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं कि जो छोटे किसान हैं, खासकर गरीब आदिवासी किसान हैं सुखाग्रस्त इलाकों में, जहां सिंचाई का प्रबन्ध नहीं है, वहां के लिए पम्प के ऊपर 80 प्रतिशत सबसिडी की योजना बनी। बेचारे पढ़े-लिखे नहीं हैं। मुट्ठी भर दलाल और बैंक के पदाधिकारियों का गुट बन गया, एक आदिवासी को पकड़ लिया जिसके नाम पर एक बीघा खेत है, दो बीघा खेत है, अंगूठे का निशान ले लिया और उसको सौ-पचास रुपया दे कर

[श्री कलापति मिश्र]

बिदा कर दिया। उसको पता भी नहीं है कि किस कागज पर दस्तखत कर रहे हैं। उसके नाम पर 7 हजार, 8 हजार रुपए का पम्प चढ़ गया। दो-तीन साल निकलने के बाद एकदम से उसके पास नोटिस जाता है रुपया जमा करने के लिए। न उसके पास रुपया है, न उसको इस बात की जानकारी है। बिहार के संथाल परगने में ही एक हजार ऐसे आदिवासियों के ऊपर मुकदमे हैं, 500 से अधिक जेल गए और बाहर निकले।

उपसभाध्यक्ष [डा० (श्रीमती) सरोजिनी महिषी] पीठासीन हुई।

एक कौटरी बन गई है, बैंक भ्रष्टाचार के अड्डे बन गए। भ्रष्टाचार पुरानी बीमारी है, लेकिन दो ऐसे विभाग थे एक पोस्टल और दूसरा बैंक जिनके बारे में आम आदमी के दिमाग में यह धारणा बनी थी कि यहां भ्रष्टाचार नहीं घुस सकेगा, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आज यह सबसे ज्यादा बैंकों के अन्दर है। अभी बिहार के अन्दर कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल हो गई, दो महीने तक क्लियरेंस बन्द रहा, बिहार के सारे बैंकों का क्लियरेंस बन्द रहा। जो खेती में लगा था उसका काम ठप्प, किसी गरीब को रुपया निकालना है तो उसका मामला ठप्प, जो छोटे-छोटे उद्योग में लगे हुए हैं उनकी सारी डीलिंग ठप्प। दो महीने लगातार क्लियरेंस रुक जाने के बाद सरकार कोई कदम नहीं उठा सकी और कामगाज चलता रहे इसके लिए कोई व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकी।

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में किसानों की बात की जाती है मार्जिनल फार्मर स्माल फार्मर। उनके लिए सबसिडी की व्यवस्था है। एक लिस्ट बनी रहती है, क्राइटेरिया बना रहता है कि ये-ये इसके अन्तर्गत आते हैं। बैंक में जाता है पहले, दरखास्त देनी पड़ती है। दस्तखत करने के बाद साल भर तक दौड़ता रहता है। उसके बाद रुपया मिल गया काफी घूस देने के बाद तो राज्य सरकारें बैंकों को जो सबसिडी देती हैं उसकी व्यवस्था करती नहीं है। और चार दिन के बाद पूरे एमाऊंट का पूरे कर्ज का नोटिस उस पर आ जाता है और केस चलना शुरू होता है और उसको बाद में जेल जाना पड़ता है। यह सारी समस्या खड़ी हो गयी है जिस की व्यवस्था करना आवश्यक है। मैं चाहूंगा कि पुजारी जी इनका कहीं न कहीं कोई प्रावधान करें खासकर उन राज्यों के लिये कि जो पीछे छूट गये हैं। क्रेडिट रेशो की कुछ सीमा होनी चाहिए कि उससे नीचे नहीं जाने देंगे। कई राज्य हैं जो मोर दैन 100 परसेंट क्रेडिट रेशो लेते हैं। एक सौ रुपया जनता जमा करती है तो 120 रुपये वहां काम के लिये खर्च किये जाते हैं और कुछ गरीब राज्य ऐसे हैं कि अगर जनता 100 रुपये जमा करती है तो उसमें से राज्य के लिये 40, 50 या 57 रुपये से ज्यादा नहीं पड़ता है खर्च के लिये और उसमें से भी ब्याज का अंश हर कदम पर जुड़ा रहेगा। ऐसा होने पर तो कल्याणकारी राज्य की कल्पना की पूर्ति तो नहीं हो सकती। मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि बिहार में भागलपुर नाम की एक जगह है, एक छोटा उद्योग केन्द्र है वहां कई हजार लोग सिल्क के कारबार में लगे हुए हैं। आज उन को वहां के बैंकों के व्यवहार से बहुत परेशानी होती है। दो-दो महीने तक उन की बिल्टी नहीं छूटती, उन को पैसा नहीं मिलता। तो इन सब बातों को आप को देखना चाहिए। अगर गाड़ी दलदल में फंस गयी है तो किसी को जीप पर रहने की आवश्यकता नहीं। ऐसा भी देखा गया है कि प्राइवेट बिल आया है और उस का औचित्य समझ कर सरकार ने उसको स्वीकार किया है। क्या मांग की गयी है इस बिल में। एक कमेटी बनायी जाये जिसमें पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर रहें, जिनको बैंकिंग का अनुभव हो वह रहे उच्च न्यायालय का या सुप्रीम कोर्ट का कोई रिटायर्ड जज रहे और वह उस का हेड हो और आज जो बैंकिंग की प्रक्रिया चल रही है वह सारी बातों को समेट कर उसका परीक्षण करे और कुछ सुझाव दे। मैं समझता हूं कि इसमें ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है जिस पर सरकार को आपत्ति हो। मैं आग्रह करूंगा कि इन सब बातों को देखते हुए सरकार इस को सहर्ष स्वीकार

करें। इससे सरकार की मर्यादा घटेगी नहीं, बढ़ेगी ही और यह देश के लिये बहुत कल्याण की बात होगी।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN *DR.* (SHRI MATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI]: Mr. M.S. Ramachandran.

SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam Vice-Chairman, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to make a few comments on the Resolution. I am also thankful to the Mover of the Resolution for giving this House an opportunity to discuss both the achievements and the lapses of our banks in the public sector.

I believe that the Mover of the Resolution has given a very much exaggerated account of the state of affairs. I do not say that it is extremely good in all aspects, but they are not so bad as it is attempted to be made out. I would like to remind my colleague, Shri Ramakrishnan, the Mover of the Resolution that by nationalisation of the banking sector we have inherited these banks from the private and monopoly industrial houses of this country which were under their control before nationalisation. They had a culture. They had an outlook without any commitment to our social ideologies of the Government. So, we have inherited those banks as they were with the officers and the staff with their outlook, culture and tradition. It is not so easy to change all of them in such a short time. It takes not only time, but more serious efforts to put them in order—at least in the way we want them to function. At the same time, we cannot just Say that on the achieve ments side it is not satisfactory. There are certain lapses. I do admit. But the overall performance of the banking sector is really good and 5 not at all bad as is attempted to be made Madam. If we take up the deposits growth, as at the end of 1978, Rs. 26,550.79 crores were the deposits, and there was an increase—it registered an increase of 24.47 per-cent over the previous year. Yearly-rate of growth of deposit in 1979 was 16.50 per cent, in 1980, It was 17.20 per cent, in 1981 it was 19.57 per cent and in 1982. it was 14:80 per cent Looking at these figcres. it is not so easy to say that the performance is not satisfactry. Again, laoking at the deposit growth of the non-banking companies, I would like to compare, in 1979-80 it was 31 per cent, in 1980-81 it was 21.3 per cent, and in 1981-82 it was 31:03 per cent. Then comparing this with the non-banking companies, our growth may not be as satisfactory as we would like them to b_e but there are reasons for that. Those non-banking companies are inducing the customers for higher rate of interest and also some what better service in receipt of money and then repayment of the money, in that respect, our sector performance is not satisfactory. We should not also forget the fact: before nationalisation", these banks were functioning purely as commercial banking institutions. After the nationalisation, they have taken the role of serving as to fulfil our social abjectives and social commitments. These banks have been extending credit facilities to a number of ongoing social and economic programmes and schemes such as IRDP etc. During the first three years of the Sixth Five Year Plan, total sum credit was Rs. 1470.62 crores. Total subsidy was Rs. 952.09 crores benefiting about 89 lakhs families and one more aspect, the banking sector has done is they have started adopting number of villages. These adopted villages by banks and public sector have increased at the end of 1981 to 1,20,000. No one can dispute that these villages have not made all round progress. Profits of 28 public sector banks have gone up from Rs. 55.94 crores in 1980 to Rs. 77.56 crores in 1982. Out of the total outstanding credit of Rs. 36128 crores at the end of 1982, Rs. 28.345 crores were fully secured. Rs. 4054 crores were considered good and secured by

[SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN]

personal liabilities. Rs. 3729 crores were Directors personal security. This cannot be considered bad. Now, let me come to certain unsatisfactory aspects. Credit deposits ratio is not uniform in all the regions. In Southern region, it is at 80.01 percent, Northern region, it is ranging between 49.60 percent to 56.01 percent, in eastern and western regions, it is only 45.08 percent. There is great regional imbalance and the same thing will apply also to the number of branches in different regions.

In respect of customer service, I agree with the mover of the Resolution that much remains to be done. I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister will take concrete steps to improve this aspect.

In conclusion, I appeal to the mover of the Resolution to have a second thought on his Resolution and not press his Resolution. Thank you.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh); Madam Vice-Chairman, the Resolution before the House is one on which there should not have been any difference of opinion, in the sense that this Resolution seeks to focus the attention of the House and of the Government in particular on three things that are happening in the banking system: one, the increasing number of frauds and other malpractices which are being brought to light from time to time; two, the numerous incidents of dacoity and theft that are taking place: and three, the non-uniformity of pay scales and service conditions existing among the different 'banks. Taking these three facts into consideration, the Resolution seeks to request the Government to appoint a high-powered committee with either a sitting or a retired Supreme Court Judge and some Members of Parliament and some experts outside, to go into the working of the banks in the light of these three specified problems that have been mentioned in the Resolution.

One point which is arising again and again is that the entire focus is only on the nationalised banks, as if to give an impression that the nationalised banks have been a sort or problem rather than a solution to the various issues that we were facing in the country over the last 38 years. Madam Vice-Chairman, I would like to dispel any doubt or suspicion whatsoever about the intention of this Resolution by saying that the nationalised banks have been made the J focal point mainly because today the nationalised banks account for as much as 90 per cent of the commercial network of banks in the country. Therefore, the incidents that are taking place due either to dacoity or white-collared dacoity and the non-existence of uniform pay scales focus attention on the nationalised banks and this could be made, with the help of the Government's persuasive powers, to include other commercial banks as well. Therefore, one need not be very apprehensive as to the focus of the Resolution on the nationalised banks.

Madam Vice-Chairman, the problem of frauds in the banks is something which should make everybody I attentive. There is no denying of the fact that here has been an increase in the number of frauds and malpractices in the banks. That does not, however, mean that the entire banking system in this country, either nationalised or otherwise is full of frauds and nothing else. What is important to note is that the increasing number of frauds and malpractices is causing alarm because they are becoming a premium on the working of the development forces in the country. Therefore, it is necessary that efforts should be made to check the frauds and malpractices in the banks. Madam, while the ordinary I citizen requires umpteen number of

assurances, securities even to secure a small loan, some of the big industrial houses, whose cases have come to light, have been able to corner large amounts in the banks without such security systems which are being insisted on in the case of the ordinary citizen. If these big industries, individuals and companies could corner large amounts and ultimately become a drain on the functioning of the banking system, why should not efforts be made to pinpoint the various defects that are there and plug them" And for that if there is need for a high-power committee to closely examine these issues, I see no reason why there should be any fear, suspicion or apprehension about it. Similarly, there have been numerous instances of dacoity and theft taking place in banks. Several Members have pointed out the alarming proportions of such incidents and suggested some of the measures to minimise the incidence of dacoity and theft. Therefore, once again, if a high-power committee could examine such in depth, with all the information that is available before it, I see no reason why either the Government or the Treasury Benches should have any reservation about appointing such a committee, such a committee going into the entire working of the banks, with particular reference to these issues.

Finally, it may be true that the employees and officers of the banks are being paid reasonably fair salaries, and are having reasonably good facilities and service conditions. But what is important is there has been no uniformity in their pay-scales and service-conditions. The pay-scales and service conditions of the bank employees differ so much from bank to bank and even between nationalised banks themselves and between nationalised banks and other commercial banks. Therefore, a committee should go into the rationale of the various grades, of the various pay scales, as also service conditions prevailing in the different banks so that there could come about a more uniform and rational system of pay scales and service conditions for those employed in banks. The range now-existing between the lowest scale of pay and the highest scale of pay is not in tune with the avowed object of creating a society moving towards socialist goals. Therefore, in order to achieve the object of socialist goals which is the guiding principle of the entire nation toady, there is need for a critical look into the pay scales and service conditions of bank employees, there is need for 'bringing about uniformity in their working conditions and facilities, between the banks and even as between the banks and such other organisations and the entire work force in the country as a whole. In view of these things I would request the Finance Minister to consider this resolution with that understanding and assure the House that the Government will make every effort to appoint a committee, as suggested by the resolution, under the chairmanship of a retired or a sitting Supreme Court Judge with some Members of Parliament and other experts in the field as members of the committee, so that the banking system comes to play a more effective and laudable role in the development of the country. Thank you.

श्रीमती शान्ती पहाड़िया (राजस्थान): श्रीमन्, सबसे पहले मैं आपने जो मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया है उसके लिए धन्यवाद देती हूं और जो माननीय सदस्य यह प्रस्ताव लाये हैं उनको भी धन्यवाद देती हूं। हमारे देश में जो बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ वह बहुत अच्छा हुआ। हमारे देश के लिए यह बहुत अच्छा कानून बना। हमारे देश में ऐसे गरीब लोग थे जो सरमायेदारों से पैसा लेते थे और वे बेचारे उनको चुकाते चुकाते अपने प्राण त्याग देते थे। लेकिन आज चारों तरफ विकास हुआ है। हमारे यहां 5 हजार--6 हजार की बस्ती है। वहां भी आज आपको बैंक मिलेंगे। हर तबके के लोगों को चाहे किसान

[श्रीमती शांती पहाड़िया]

हों, चाहें उनका अपना बिजनेस हो उनको इसका लाभ मिला है। बहुत से लोग जब कोई पशु खरीदते हैं, बीज खरीदते हैं यहां से कर्जा लेते हैं। बहुत से लोग इससे अपना हथकरघा का काम शरू करते हैं। मैं समझती हूं कि यह हमारे देश के लिये बहुत ही अच्छा कानून बना है। इससे हमारे गरीब लोगों को काफी राहत मिली है और इससे काफी विकास हुआ है। इसके कारण ऐसे लोग जो पहले सर्विस में जाते थे वे वहां न जाकर अपना काम शुरू करते हैं क्योंकि इसके लिये उन्हें बैंकों से लोन मिल जाता है और इससे वे अपने छोटे-मोटे धंधे में लग जाते हैं। इस तरह से लोगों को इससे काफी राहत मिली है।

दूसरी बात मैं यह भी कहूंगी कि इस काम के साथ-साथ हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी और भी अच्छे-अच्छे काम करने जा रहे हैं, उससे गरीबों को काफी राहत मिलेगी। मैं चाहती हूं कि ऐसे तरीके निकाले जायें, जैसे कि अभी एक भाई बोल रहे थे कि कई लोग हैं जो बहुत गरीब हैं और वे जब बैंकों से पैसा लेने जाते हैं तो कुछ पैसा 2 हजार रूपया या 250 रुपया जमा करना पड़ता है। वे यह किस तरह से करते हैं यह भगवान ही जानें। इससे गरीबों को नुकसान पड़ता है। इसके लिये वे बेचारे क्या करते हैं कि अपना जेवर बेच देते हैं, अपनी चीजें गिरवी रख लेते हैं ताकि इसकी सिक्योरिटी जमा कर सकें। मेरी मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना है कि इसको कम किया जाय। आशा है वे इस पर ध्यान देंगे। दूसरी बात यह है कि यह भी चला हुआ है कि बैंकों द्वारा जब पैसे वसूलने की बात होती है तो गांवों में कुड़की करते हैं और सारा सामान उठा ले जाते हैं। उसमें रियायत की जानी चाहिए। उसमें छूट देनी चाहिए। हर एक के पास खेत नहीं है, हर एक का अपना बिजनेस नहीं होता। जब उसका कोई आमदनी का जरिया बनता है, जो छोटे-छोटे किसान होते हैं वे बैल लेते हैं, भैंस लेते हैं, लेकिन कभी-कभी वह भैंस भी मर जाती है, बैल मर जाते हैं और उनके ऊपर ऋण हो जाता है और वे उस ऋण में दब जाते हैं और वे बैंक का कर्जा नहीं दे पाते। उसके पास घर में जो कुछ भी होता है बैंक वाले जाकर सारी चीजें जो उन्हें मिलती हैं, उसे उठाकर ले जाते हैं। तो ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए। इतनी सख्ती नहीं होनी चाहिए, उसमें छूट करनी चाहिए। उसमें 5 प्रतिशत, 10 प्रतिशत की छूट दी जानी चाहिए और उसकी अदायगी का टाइम आगे बढ़ा दिया जाना चाहिए और इसको चार साल या पांच साल बढ़ा दिया जाना चाहिए। मैं इसका बहुत ही स्वागत करती हूं। हमारे देश में जो बैंक के कार्यक्रम चले हैं उसके कारण हमारे घर-घर में, गांव-गांव में ट्यूब वेल लग गये हैं। इससे खेती के द्वारा काफी आमदनी का जरिया बन गया है, खेतों की सिंचाई होती है, खेतों को काफी पानी मिलता है। हमारे राजस्थान में पानी की बहुत कमी थी लेकिन आज हर जगह ट्यूबवैल लगते जा रहे हैं। बैंकों से लोन लेकर आज लोग तरक्की कर रहे हैं। इससे देश के गरीब लोगों को काफी राहत मिली है। इन विचारों के साथ मैं मंत्री जी से यह अर्ज करूंगी कि जो दो हजार या 4 हजार का ऋण दिया जाता है उसको माफ कर दिया जाय, आपकी बड़ी मेहरबानी होगी। धन्यवाद।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश): आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, हमारे विद्वान मित्र श्री रामाकृष्णन् जी ने जो संकल्प रखा है, उसका समर्थन करने के लिये मैं खड़ा हुआ हूं। जैसाकि उन्होंने अपने संकल्प में बतलाया है और कुछ उदाहरण देकर उन्होंने कहा है कि इस सिलसिले में एक समिति का गठन किया जाये जिसमें उच्चतम न्यायालय के किसी वर्तमान अथवा सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीश अध्यक्ष पद पर रहे और संसद सदस्यों के साथ-साथ वित्त और बैंकिंग के क्षेत्र में अनुभव रखने वाले कुछ अन्य विशेषज्ञ जो हैं, उनको इस समिति का सदस्य बनाया जाये। सन् 1969 में बकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ था और जब बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ था तो सारे

देश ने उसका समर्थन किया था। यह एक बहुत अच्छा कदम था लेकिन पिछले 17–18 साल में बैंकों की जो कार्य प्रणाली रही है उससे जिन लोगों के द्वारा बैंकों में रुपया लगाया जाता है उससे उनको कोई लाभ नहीं मिल पा रहा है। काफी योजनाएं बनीं और एक विशेष किस्म की योजना थी कि जो शिक्षित बेरोजगार हैं या जो अशिक्षित बेरोजगार हैं उनको बकों की ओर से 25–25 हजार रुपया कर्ज दिया जाएगा। उस योजना के सम्बन्ध में बराबर शिकायतें भी आती रहीं और कुछ राज्य सरकारों ने इस बात को माना भी कि वास्तविक लाभ उन लोगों को नहीं मिला जो कि गरीब थे और बेरोजगार थे। इसी प्रकार से बैंकों के सिलसिले में धोखाधड़ी की शिकायतें आया करती हैं जिसमें बराबर वृद्धि हो रही है; जिस पर बराबर इस सदन के सदस्यों ने चर्चा भी की है और कई उदाहरण दिये हैं। तीसरा इसमें ध्यान दिलाया गया है कि जो बैंकों के कर्मचारी हैं उनको जो काम करने के सिलसिले में वेतन मिलता है पद का लाभ मिलता है उसके सिलसिले में वहां पर असमानता है। जो लोग समान काम करते हैं उनको समान कार्य के लिए समान वेतन मिलना चाहिये। चौथी बात यह है कि जो गरीब लोग हैं रिक्शा चलाने वाले लोग हैं उनके लिए यह योजना थी कि जो बेरोजगार हैं जो रिक्शा चलाने वाले अपना रिक्शा लेना चाहते हैं उनको ऋण दिया जाएगा। मुझे पूरा यकीन है कि यदि कोई संसद् सदस्य चाहेंगे तो 15 बार उनको बैंक में जाना पड़ेगा कर्ज के सिलसिले में सारे फार्म भरने पड़ेंगे साथ में बैंक वाले जमानतदार भी मांगते हैं, वह भी देनी पड़ेगी लेकिन इसके बाद भी रिक्शा वाले गरीब आदमी को किस प्रकार की कठिनाई होती है इसकी ओर मंत्री महोदय को विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिये। एक और बात की ओर मैं आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। बैंकों के द्वारा जो कर्ज दिये जाते हैं इसके सिलसिले में भी काफी धांधली है। इसी सदन में 26 मार्च, 1985 को अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 933 के उत्तर में बतलाया गया कि एक सज्जन को जो दिल्ली के रहने वाले हैं साढ़े सात लाख रुपये कर्ज दिया गया। सात लाख रुपये कर्ज की पहली किश्त और पचास हजार रुपये कर्ज की दूसरी किश्त दी गई। यह कर्ज उनको दो किश्तों में दिया गया। यह कर्ज इस बात के लिए दिया गया कि सेक्टर 15–ए नोएडा में उस व्यक्ति ने इमारत बनानी थी। जनवरी 1983 में रिजर्व बैंक आफ इण्डिया ने अनुमति दी सेंट्रल बैंक आफ इण्डिया को बिल्डिंग बनाने के लिये यह कर्ज दिया गया और फिर उसी व्यक्ति से बैंक द्वारा इसे 14 हजार रुपये माहवार किराये पर लिया गया। यह व्यक्ति कोई और नहीं है आज के केबीनेट सेक्रटरी उस वक्त वे वित्त सचिव थे, रक्षा सचिव थे। एक साधारण आदमी को 10 हजार रुपये कर्ज भी नहीं मिलेगा। क्योंकि बैंक से कर्ज मिलने के कुछ नियम होते हैं। जमानत देनी होती है सम्पत्ति को सिक्युरिटी के रूप में देना पड़ता है। मेरा यह कहना है कि इस तरह के कार्यों में जो घोटाले हो रहे हैं इनकी ओर सरकार को विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिये। मैं राम कृष्णन् जी के प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूं कि संसद् का नियंत्रण होना चाहिये। बैंकों में जो धन होता है वह आम जनता और देश की संस्थाओं का धन जमा होता है। यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है इसका सदुपयोग हो इसका लाभ सब लोगों को मिले इसके लिए आवश्यक है कि संसद् की एक उच्च समिति हो उसका प्रभावकारी नियंत्रण इन पर होना चाहिये। धन्यवाद।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश): आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, जो हमारे मित्र बकों के राष्ट्रीयकरण के सम्बन्ध में यह प्रस्ताव लाए हैं उनकी बहुत सी बातों से मैं सहमत हूं। 1969 में बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण कर के देश की नेता श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी ने समाजवाद की दिशा में एक महान कदम उठाया। सारे राष्ट्र की जनता ने इस कदम का स्वागत किया। उसी समय राजाओं के प्रिवी-पर्सेज की समाप्ति की भी घोषणा की गई, उसका भी देश की जनता ने स्वागत किया। यह कदम समाजवाद की दिशा

[श्री कल्पनाथ राय]

में बहुत बड़ा कदम था। मगर बैंकों के राष्ट्रीकरण के पीछे उद्देश्य क्या थे? मुट्ठी भर पूंजीपति बैंकों को कंट्रोल करते थे, उनको बैंकों से निकाल कर आम जनता के लिए उनके दरवाजे खुल जाएं। उसका यही उद्देश्य था, आर्थिक और सामाजिक उत्पीड़न की समाप्ति, विषमता की समाप्ति, शोषण पर आधारित सामाजिक आर्थिक रचना की समाप्ति और एक नए इकोनोमिक आर्डर, एक नए आर्थिक विकास की दिशा में कदम उठाया गया था। लेकिन पिछले 69 के बाद 16 वर्षों में, अभी मैं आपके सामने, बसन्त] साठे जी ने एक किताब लिखी है,

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उस किताब में उन्होंने लिखा है:

"It will not be out of place in this context to mention here the remarks of a non-resident Indian businessman, Mr. Swraj Paul, made at the Press Clcb of India on 19th August, 1983. He said: It is unfortunate that just 11 business houses in the country were controlling the industry in which public institutions had invested about Rs. 27,000 crores whereas their own investment was barely 148 crores." He further disclosed that 11 industrial houses were siphoning off a big chunk of the financial gains for their own needs and according to some estimates, they had deposited Rs. 25,000 crores in banks overseas." The remarks made by Mr. Swraj Paul have not been denied or contradicted by the big industrial houses or by any responsible quarter."

These industrial houses are Birlas, Tatas, Mafatlal, J. K. Singhania, Tha-par, Sarabhai, Scindia, Kirlosker, Hindustan Levers, Larsen and Tou-bro and Modi.

आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, पूरे हिन्दुस्तान के बैंकों की डिपाजिट 75 हजार करोड़ रुपया है जिसमें 27 हजार करोड़ रुपया तो 11 पूंजीपति घरानों को चाहे वह लाइफ इंश्योरेंस बैंक या जो भी फाइनेंसियल इस्टीट्यूशन हैं उनके माध्यम से दिया गया है। आप जानते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में पब्लिक सैक्टर की इकोनोमी के निर्माण के पीछे क्या है, नए हिन्दुस्तान का निर्माण, जो हिन्दुस्तान पहले बुलक कार्ट एज में था आज पिछले 37 सालों में वह हिन्दुस्तान बुलक कार्ट इरा से निकल कर एटामिक इरा में पहुंच चुका है। हिन्दुस्तान में भारी उपलब्धियां हुई हैं। लेकिन जो हमने पब्लिक सैक्टर को बनाया उसके इन्फास्ट्रक्चर को बिल्डअप किया नए देश के निर्माण के लिए, नई सामाजिक-आर्थिक संरचना करने के लिए, इनफास्ट्रक्चर बिल्डअप करने के लिए, समाजवादी दिशा में देश के कदम उठाने के लिए किया, प्राइवेट सैक्टर का एक उद्देश्य है कंजयमर गुड्स में इन्वैस्टमेंट और ज्यादा से ज्यादा मुनाफा कमाना। बैंकों के राष्ट्रीयकरण के बाद जो पूंजी देश के गांवों के विकास के लिए या कृषि के विकास के लिए या हिन्दुस्तान की बेकारों की समस्या हल करने के लिए या राष्ट्र के सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए जो पैसा खर्च होना चाहिए वह पैसा जिस दिशा में खर्च होना चाहिए वह उतना खर्च हुआ है क्या? यह एक सवाल है। हमारे आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री श्री जनार्दन पुजारी जो एक बहुत ही ईमानदार और सच्चे मंत्री हैं और आज हमारी सरकार ने रूरल एम्प्लायमेंट स्कीम, रूरल इंटीग्रेटड डिवैलपमेंट स्कीम, लैंडलैस एम्प्लायमेंट गारन्टी स्कीम, रीहैबिलीटेशन आफ दी बौंडिड लेबर, ये ऐसे कार्यक्रम हैं जिन पर हमारी सरकार पैसा खर्च कर रही है। अगर इन कार्यक्रमों को ठीक से चालू किया जाए, उन्हें ठीक से लागू किया जाए तो देश के सामाजिक और आर्थिक जीवन में भारी परिवर्तन हो सकता है। सरकार के ये कार्यक्रम बड़े ही सराहनीय हैं और इन कार्यक्रमों का इम्प्लीमेंटेशन भी होना चाहिए। लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी हमारी सरकार यह चाहती है कि राष्ट्रीय जीवन में आर्थिक शोषण समाप्त हो, गैर-बराबरी समाप्त हो, देश सामाजिक और आर्थिक विकास के रास्ते पर आगे बढ़े। इसके बावजूद हमारे इस केन्द्रीय कबिनेट

के एक मिनिस्टर ने जो अपनी किताब लिखी है, इसमें उन्होंने लिखा है कि 27 हजार करोड़ रुपया हमारे बैंकिंग इन्स्टीटयूशन्ज और फाइनेंसियल इन्स्टीट-यूशन्ज के माध्यम से देश के 11 पूंजीपति घरानों को गया है। और यह पूंजीपति घराने, इसमें से 2500 करोड़ रुपया इन्होंने विदेशों में जमा कर रखा है इनकी पूंजी केवल 148 करोड़ है, यह सोचने की बात है। हम इन बातों को देखें।

4 P.M.

आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, देश की आजादी की लड़ाई के दौरान ही महात्मा गांधी के नेतृत्व में आजादी की लड़ाई लड़ने वाले सैनानियों ने यह फैसला किया था कि जब हिन्दुस्तान, हमारा देश आजाद होगा तो उसमें हम गांव के विकास और कृषि के विकास को प्राथमिकता देंगे क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तान की परिस्थिति यूरोप की परिस्थिति से बिल्कुल भिन्न है। हम यूरोप की नकल करके हिन्दुस्तान का निर्माण नहीं कर सकते। हिन्दुस्तान बुनियादी रूप से गांवों का देश है, हिन्दुस्तान बुनियादी रूप से एक कृषि-प्रधान देश है, देश की एकानोमी एग्रीकल्चरल एकोनोमी है, यहां के रहने वाले लोग गांव के रहने वाले किसान हैं और आज क्या कारण है कि हमारी जरूरी नीतियों का ठीक ढंग से कार्यान्वयन न होने के कारण लोग गांवों से शहरों की ओर भाग रहे है है। मैं खुद गांव को जनता हूं, गांव का लुहार उजड़ कर गांव छोड़ कर भाग रहा है, गांव का बेहार उजड़ कर भाग रहा है, गांव का सुनार आज उजड़ कर गांव से शहर की ओर भाग रहा है, जो गांव का तेली तेल पेलकर खर्चा चला रहा था, वह भी आज उजड़ कर गांव से बड़े बड़े शहरों जैसे बंबई, कलकत्ता, हैदराबाद, दिल्ली की ओर भाग रहा है, गांव का जो लेंडलेस लेबर है, वह काम धंधे की तलाश में शहर की ओर भाग रहा है और बंबई, कलकत्ता, हैदराबाद, मद्रास की ओर भागा जा रहा है। गांव के लोग रोजी-रोटी की तलाश में बड़े शहरों की ओर भाग रहे हैं और बड़े शहरों की आज दुर्गति यह है उपाध्यक्ष महोदया, कि अगर दिल्ली में 50 हजार लोगों के लिये पानी की या बिजली की व्यवस्था एन० डी० एम० सी० करता है तो उस पर एक करोड़ डेढ़ करोड़ का दबाव है, अगर पचास हजार के लिये बिजली है, तो डेढ करोड़ का कंजम्पशन है, पचास हजार लोगों के लिये पानी की व्यवस्था है, तो दो करोड़ पानी लेने वाले है। नियोजन के कारण ही एक तरह से हमारे यहां शहरों की ओर लोग गांवों से भाग रहे है और यही कारण है कि आज हैदराबाद, बंबई या कलकत्ता या दिल्ली या कोयम्बटूर या अहमदाबाद या चंडीगढ जैसे बड़े शहरों में स्लम की प्रोब्लम पैदा हो रही है और गांवों से लोग शहरों की ओर भाग रहे है। अगर हिन्दुस्तान के बैंकों में जमा पूंजी का इस्तेमाल गांवों के विकास के लिये या छोटे-छोटे उद्योग धंधों के विकास के लिये या कुटीर उद्योगों के विकास के लिये या गांव के जो लोग पुरातन जमाने से रोजगार करते रहे हैं, उनके उस रोजगार को बढ़ावा देने के लिये किया जाय, तो जहां एक तरफ बेकारी की समस्या के हल की तरफ हम प्रयास करेंगे, वहीं जो गांव उजड रहे हैं, उनका बचाव होगा। वहां के लोग जो काम-धंधे पुरातन जमाने से करते रहे थे, उन कामों के लिए बैंकों से पैसा लेकर वहीं गांवों में अपना काम कर सकते है और इससे गांवों की आर्थिक दशा भी मजबूत हो सकती है। आज गांव में रहने वाला जो भी व्यक्ति थोड़ा सा धनी हो जाता है, वह अपना धन समेट कर शहर की तरफ चला जाता है। गांव की जमीन 500/-रुपये बीघा, 1000/-रुपये बीघा मिल रही है, कोई लेने वाला नहीं और वहां दिल्ली में एक लाख रुपये बीघा जमीन है और वह भी मिलने वाली नहीं है।

आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, जो बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण का उद्देश्य था, वह था हिन्दुस्तान से आर्थिक शोषण की समाप्ति, उद्देश्य था सामाजिक उत्पीडन की समाप्ति, उद्देश्य था कृषि का सर्वांगीण विकास, उद्देश्य था देश के सात लाख गांवों का विकास, उद्देश्य था हिन्दुस्तान का सर्वांगीण विकास। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान

[श्री कल्पनाथ राय]

के इन बैंकों ने कृषि के क्षेत्र में इतना ध्यान नहीं दिया । मैं देश की नेता स्वर्गीय इन्दिरा जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा, जिन्होंने कि बैंकों के राष्ट्रीयकरण के बाद एग्रीकल्चर बैंक की भी स्थापना की । हिन्दुस्तान के गांवों की खेती के विकास के लिये उन्होंने एग्रीकल्चर बैंकों की स्थापना की । आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, जो रुपया इंटीग्रेटेड रूरल डेवलपमेंट के लिये हमारी छठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के माध्यम से दिया गया है, या रूरल एम्पलायमेंट स्कीम के लिये जो रुपया दिया गया है या लैंडलेस एम्पलायमेंट गारंटी स्कीम के लिये जो रुपया दिया गया है मेरा सरकार से निवेदन है कि जो रुपया दिया गया है उससे दस गुना रुपया ग्रामीण सेक्टर के विकास के लिये दिया जाना चाहिये । मैं वित्त मंत्री से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि प्राइवेट सेक्टर में, इतना ज्यादा पैसा क्यों दिया जाता है प्राइवेट सेक्टर के पूंजीपतियों को, जिनके पास अथाह धन है, उनको बैंकों से इतने हजार करोड़ रुपया क्यों दिया जाता है, क्यों नहीं उस रुपये को छोटे उद्योगधन्धों में, मीडियम साइज उद्योगधंधों में या गांवों के उद्योगधन्धों के विकास के लिये खर्च किया जाता ? पब्लिक सेक्टर के लिये रुपया खर्च होता है, यह अच्छी बात है। आज देश में एक बहस यह भी चल रही है कि प्राइवेट सेक्टर में मुनाफा ज्यादा होता है, पब्लिक सेक्टर में मुनाफा कम होता है। पब्लिक सेक्टर का निर्माण केवल मुनाफे के लिये नहीं होता है । पब्लिक सेक्टर का निर्माण मुल्क के निर्माण के लिए किया गया है, इन्फास्ट्रक्चर के डेवलपमेंट के लिए किया गया है । पब्लिक सेक्टर में बिजली पैदा होती है तो उसका लाभ बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपति लेते हैं, उससे अपना कारखाना चलाकर कन्ज्यूमर गुड्स पैदा करते हैं और उनको चार गुना दाम पर बेचते हैं। बिजली न हो तो उनका कारखाना नहीं चल सकता। पूंजीपति लाबी या केपिटलिस्ट प्रेस देश में लाजिक दे रहे हैं पब्लिक सेक्टर में मुनाफा नहीं । पब्लिक सेक्टर रेलवे है, रेलवे पब्लिक यूटिलिटी सर्विस है, उसमें घाटा भी हो सकता है । उसमें आम जनता चलती है, लाखों करोड़ों इनसान चलते हैं । पब्लिक यूटिलिटी सर्विस पर करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करना पड़ता है, उसमें घाटा भी हो सकता है । इसका यह मतलब नहीं कि रेलवे पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग गलत है । एटमिक रिसर्च पब्लिक सेक्टर के माध्यम से हो रही है । आज हिन्दुस्तान बुलक कार्ट एज से सेल्स एज में प्रवेश कर गया है क्योंकि हमने पब्लिक सेक्टर एकोनोमी को प्राथमिकता दी है, पब्लिक सेक्टर में इनवेस्ट किया है, टेक्नोलोजिकल डेवलपमेंट पर, एटमिक रिसर्च पर करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करना पड़ता है। पब्लिक सेक्टर को हम प्राफिट और लास की दृष्टि से नहीं देख सकते, पब्लिक सेक्टर को पब्लिक यूटिलिटी सर्विस की दृष्टि से देखना चाहिए ।

आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, आजादी की लड़ाई के दौरान स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों ने उस जमाने में फैसला किया था कि जब हमारा देश आजाद होगा तो जनतांत्रिक गणराज्य होगा और जनतांत्रिक गणराज्य के साथ पब्लिक सेक्टर इकोनामी को प्राथमिकता देनी होगी । 1936 में आल इंडिया कांग्रेस कमेटी के अध्यक्ष की हैसियत से पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने कांग्रेस के अध्यक्ष की हैसियत से कहा था :

"I am a socialist. I believe in socialism and I want to convert the Congress into an organisation of socialism. And when I say I am a socialist, I, believe in scientific socialism. The problems of India can not be solved without socialism. The problem of poverty, the problem of unemployment cannot be solved without socialism and I want to convert the Congress party into a socialist organisation."

उन्होंने कहा कि आजादी का क्या उद्देश्य होगा, आजाद हिन्दुस्तान का क्या उद्देश्य होगा इसकी घोषणा जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने आजादी की लड़ाई के दौरान की थी। डेमोक्रेटिक सिद्धांतों में विश्वास करते हुए आजादी के बाद जो हमारी सरकार

बनी उसने उस दिशा में कदम उठाया । 1969 में जब कांग्रेस का विभाजन हुआ उस समय कांग्रेस के अध्यक्ष श्री निजलिंगप्पा ने यह कहा था: Private sector wil occupy the commanding heights of the economy. हमारे देश की नेता श्रीमती गांधी ने कहा था— Public sector will occupy the commanding heights of the economy. इसी प्रश्न को लेकर कांग्रेस टूट गई फरीदाबाद कांग्रेस के बाद और उसी अधिवेशन के बाद बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ, उस अधिवेशन के बाद राजाओं के प्रिवीपर्स समाप्त हुए, उसी अधिवेशन के बाद हमने हिन्दुस्तान में बैंकों के राष्ट्रीयकरण का फैसला किया और उसका लाभ भी हुआ । आज हिन्दुस्तान में लाखों-लाख किसान अपने खेतों को ट्रैक्टर से जोत रहे है—25 हजार रुपया वे जमा करते है और 75 हजार रुपया बैंकों से मिलता है ।

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: Madam, on what subject he is speaking? Nobody has criticised the nationalisation of the banks.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [DR. SHRI MATI SAROJINI MAHISHI): It is all right. He is expressin; his views

काफी समय लिया है आप ने । इसलिये मैं प्रार्थना करती हूं कि अब आप अपनी बात समाप्त करिये ।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : लाखों करोड़ों रुपिया सेट जो बैंकों के माध्यम से किसानों को दिये जा रहे हैं और उन के माध्यम से जो देश में रेवोल्यूशन हुआ है ; जो हरित क्रान्ति हुई है उसके पीछे यह बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण हो रहा है । इसलिये रामाकृष्णन् जी ने जो प्रस्ताव रखा है कि आज बैंकों की प्रक्रिया फाल्टी है, आज उनमें डकैतियां हो रही हैं, बैंकों के पे स्केल्स उचित नहीं हैं उसके लिये मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि बैंकों के सिस्टम में सुधार लाने के लिये ही यह प्रस्ताव लाया गया है । मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूं । आज जो बीस नेशनलाइज्ड बैंक हैं उनमें एक तरह का सैलरी स्ट्रक्चर होना चाहिए । आज सेंडिकेट बैंक की सैलरी एक तरह की है, स्टेट बैंक की सैलरीज दूसरी तरह की हैं, न्यू बैंक की सैलरीज दूसरी हैं और इलाहाबाद बैंक की सैलरीज दूसरी तरह की हैं, सब का पैटर्न अलग-अलग है तो मैं चाहता हूं कि वित्त मंत्री जी जो हिन्दुस्तान के राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक हैं उन की सर्विस कंडीशन्स और जो उन के कर्मचारी हैं उनकी तनख्वाहों में एक यूनिफार्मिटी इस्टैबलिश करें । आज ही दिल्ली में कई लाख की डकैती हुई है । इसके लिये मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूंगा कि मैंने बहुत से बैंकों की ब्रांचेज को देखा है जिन में सेक्योरिटी की उचित व्यवस्था नहीं है । हमारे सारे नेशनलाइज्ड बैंकों में एक साइंटिफिक सेक्योरिटी की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए ताकि उन में चोरी, डकैती और लूट पाट आदि न हो सके ।

दूसरी बात उन्होंने अपने प्रस्ताव में कहा है कि :

"that, as reported, numerous incidents of dacoity and theft **are** taking place frequently in nationalised Banks; that despite most of the Banks performing the same functions there is o uniformity of pay seals and service conditions amongst the officers and employees of these Banks;"

मैं तो सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट का कोई जज इसकी अध्यक्षता करे इससे पहले मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि जो मांगें उन्होंने प्रस्ताव में रखी हैं, वह सही हैं और अंतिम बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों के माध्यम से देश के अंदर एग्रीकल्चर सेक्टर में गांव के किसानों को जो कर्ज दिये जा रहे हैं उन का रेट आफ इंटरेस्ट आप को कम करना चाहिए । मैं बहुत से केसेज जानता हूं और हमारे दरवारा सिंह जी

[श्री कल्पनाथ राय]

यहां बैठें है, वे बहुत प्रतिष्ठित नेता है, वे जानते होंगे कि बहुत से किसान जो ट्रैक्टर लिये हैं कर्ज लेकर उन का सूद ज्यादा होने के कारण उनके ट्रैक्टर नीलाम हो जाते है, उन के खेत नीलाम हो जाते हैं और वे ट्रेक्टर का दाम नहीं चुका पाते । इस लिये जब उन को कर्ज दिया जाय तो वित्त मंत्रालय से मेरा अनुरोध है कि 5 या 7 परसेंट पर वह उन को दिया जाय ताकि किसान उसको आसानी से अदा कर के हरित क्रांति में हिस्सा बंटा सकें । इसी तरह से मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि देश के बैंकों का जो राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ है उसकी पूंजी का इस्तेमाल आज देश के गरीबों को उठाने के लिये, पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडर टेकिंग को मजबूत करने के लिये, पब्लिक सेक्टर इकानामी को मजबूत करने के लिये, यहां की जनशक्ति को मजबूत करने के लिये, जनता की ताकत को मजबूत करने के लिये, लोक शक्ति को मजबूत करने के लिये, ग्रामीण अंचल की आर्थिक व्यवस्था को मजबूत करने के लिये, एग्रीकल्चरल सेक्टर को मजबूत करने के लिये किया जाय । इन शब्दों के साथ मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन करता हूं कि रामाकृष्ण जी के प्रस्ताव के कई मुद्दों का मैं समर्थन करता हूं और आशा है कि सरकार खुद ही इस में जो अच्छी बातें है उन पर मनन करेगी और उन को स्वीकार करेगी और उन को लागू करेगी । इस के साथ ही मैं इस का समर्थन करता हूं ।

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): Madam Vice-Chairman, I support the Resolution moved by the hon. Member, Mr. Ramakrishnan, requesting the Government to appoint a committee consisting of Members of Parliament and experts on economic matters. The idea about a committee is very simple. He has mentioned in his Resolution that it is high times to assess the activities of the banks, and that the committee should submit its report, within a period of six months. to the House. This is the simple idea. I think, except the operative part of the Resolution, there is no difference of opinion on all the other points which have been mentioned in the Resolution. There is no difference of opinion among the Members from both sides of the House. I was closely listening to the speeches made from the other side. I would like to ask them.

Mr. Ramakrishnan has mentioned in his Resolution that increasing number of thefts and malpractices are there in the banks. I would like to ask Mr. Kalp Nath Rai, is it a fact or not? It is a fact. 1 put it to the House. I would like to ask them, is it a fact or not? Increasing incidents of thefts and malpractices are there in the banks. We do not say, the Mover of the Resolution also does not say, that frauds are committed in all the banks throughout the country. Who said that? Whom are you replying? I do not understand. Why do you exaggerate? The other day, when the Minister was replying, he gave the facts. He told us that in every year, 1982, 1983, 1984 19<35, case of frauds have been increasing. Is it not a fact?

I would like to ask another question. I hope, the Minister will reply. Only two-three weeks back, one of the journals—it is not an irresponsible journal; I am quoting the 'Economic Times'—reported that about Rs. 2,000 crores were writtten off by the banks. Is it not a fact? Is it not time that we should go into, we should look into the entire activities of the banks I do not know the technical terms of these things. First they say, it is doubtful. It is, doubtful advances made. Then, they say, these are sticky advances. The third stage is, write off. Things are going on like that. I do not say in large number I of banks, but in many banks, things i are going on like that. This is the first point mentioned by the author of the Resolution.

The second point mentioned by him is, numerous incidents of theft and dacoity are taking place. Can we deny the fact? I ask. What happened day before yesterday? Three days back. I put a question in the House. The Minister replied that steps are being taken, in a phased manner, to protect the banks; that security measures will be taken immediately. He assured the House. The next day, what happened in New Delhi? Again, there was a bank robbery. Therefore, this is what is happening. As I said earlier, there is no difference of opinion on all these points. The only difference between us is in regard to the operative part of the Resolution. You do not agree to that. One Membe$_r$ from the other side—I do not remember the name of the Member—while concluding his speech, supporting the Resolution, appealed to the Minister that he should go int$_0$ he details in regard to the functioning of the banks. This is what we are saying. We are saying the same thing.

Some Members were telling us, why don't you read the reports of the Reserve Bank of India. Of course, I do read the reports of the Reserve Bank of India. But do you think that by reading the reports of the Reserve Bank of India, we will he able to get the entire picture in regard to the functioning of the nationalised banks? Can anybody tell the House? I do not think anybody can say like that. I regularly read the annual reports of the Reserve Bank of India. I know, in some banks, where representatives from the Reserve Bank of India are on the boards of these banks, frauds are committed. Is it not a fact? It is a fact. Therefore, don't simplify the whole thing, don't paint a rosy picture and say that nationalisation has solved all the problems. We are not opposing nationalisation. Nobody from this side. Why do you say that? Nationalisation was a big step. Every body agrees with that. We are not ques tioning nationalisation. What we are questioning is, what we want to un derstand is, how do these banks func tion? Our feeling is, all is not well with this sector of industry, the ban king sector. Something is wrong So why don't you have $_a$ check up, an assessment of the whole affair? What is the harm in it? Somebody "there is secrecy in the bank", as if the Committee is asked to check up the accounts of each individual, how much money he has got in his bank accounts. Is that the intention of the Resolution? Why do you put forward such silly arguments? We do not want to go into the secrecy of any account of the bank. We want to study the activities of the banks. It is clearly mentioned in this"to enquir$_e$ into the activities and affairs" of banks which every body should know—in cluding the lending activities of the banks. —

I can give you one latest example. There are reports in the paper that a particular bank, a very good bank, the State Bank of Indore, is committing frauds. I can give you two examples. One is, the Madras branch of that bank has reportedly suffered a great loss of 5 crores of rupees by giving an advance to one Noor Mohammad and Co. You know that party was allowed advances against uncleared cheques and drafts. Another case in the same bank is that of Indore Industries (P) Ltd.. Dewas. That company was granted 2 crores of rupees by this bank without proper scrutiny of the company or the project. And that amount was stopped. Things are going on like this inside the banks. Please don't give us a rosy pictore. Something is wrong. Frauds are the're. Reports are there. It is on the increase. I do not say all the banks are committing frauds, but it ^{is} there. S$_0$ it is time for us to go to and make a study how we can improve the activities of these banks. We do not claim that the Members

[Shri E. N. Balaram] of Parliament are experts. Members of Parliament must be there. Ex-pens on financial matters must be there. The Committee should go into the broad activities of the functioning of this body and submit a report within six months. We can have a better discussion, with better understanding we can discuss things and not in the air. We can discuss things in a better way. Supposing we get the report, what is the harm in it? I do not know. There is no harm in it. It will only help, it will only contribute to the better functioning of the industry which is a vital sector of the economy. I hope the Minister will understand the spirit of the Resolution and accept it and help us to improve this industry. Thank you.

SHRI VEERSHETTY MOGAPPA KUSHNOOR (Karnataka): Madam Vice-Chairman, I congratulate Mr. Ramakrishnan that he has given us an opportunity by bringing this Resolution to discuss the working of the banks. It is not the question whether after nationalisation the banks have served or not. I think nobody will doubt about advancing loans to the weaker sections and the priority sector that all the Scheduled Banks and nationalised Banks have done wonderfully well. That is not the question which has been raised by Mr. Ramakrishnan. The question which he has posed before this House is that every day we are reading in the newspapers about bank dacoities and frauds. These two have created a bad image about the working of the banks in the entire country. This is not my opinion. This is the opinion of Shri M. N. Goyaporia, Chairman of the Indian Banks Associations, representing all the nationalised banks and even the private banks also. He has expressed this opinion. He is also Chairman of the Central Bank of India. I quote:

> "The image of the banking industry was now perhaps at the lowest ebb. On top of the continuing customer dissatisfaction with deteriorating services in the banks was superimposed the increasing incidents of frauds and malpractices involving branches, both within the country and overseas. All these had tarnished the fair image of the banking industry".

This is the opinion of one of the top bankmen—Chairman of the Central Bank of India and Chairman of the Banking Association. Therefore, it is the duty of the Members of Parliament to express their opinion as to what is wrong with the banks.

Now he has brought in the poin about banks which have committed frauds. I would like to bring to the notice of the House instances of frauds committed.—I am not quoting figures of earlier years but only of recent years. In 1983-84, 528 cases have been booked and punishment was awarded in 85 cases. In 1984-85 2,410 cases were booked and 700 have been punished. In 1985 also, 609 cases have been booked. Madam, here I want to point out to the House that in most of the banking institutions, the Chairmen, Managers and Accountants think that they have not incurred any loss because against all these things including fraud there is insurance. Against dacoity also there is insurance and they get back the money. Bui. whose money is it? Who is taking advantage of these frauds? These frauds are being committed by dishonest customers with the connivance of the bank employees, day in and day out, over the last several years. So, something should be done and we will have to prescribe how to check all these malpractices which are being committed da$_v$ in and day out.

Here, Madam, I want to bring to the notice of the House that the banking indusry is a public industry. People's money is involved there by way of deposits. In the month of May this year there were nearly Rs. 72,000 crores as deposits in the scheduled 'banks, commercial banks and

nationalized banks. This is all money of the public. We will have to be much more careful in overseeing the working of the banks and unless we are careful in that, there could be trouble as happened recently. I think the House knows very well about the three banks which have been now liquidated and are being amalgamated with some other banks just like the Bank of Cochin, the Laskshmi Commercial Bank and the State Bank of Miraj. These three banks had bungled in their loans and advances and frauds also had taken place in them. So, on the basis of the report of the Reserve Bank of India, these three banks have been amalgamated with nationalized banks. So, in their watch over the performance of these 'banks, Parliament as well as the general public must be very vigilant.

In the same way, dacoities are also taking place. About dacoities and frauds we are reading in the newspapers. In 1981, 32 dacoities took place; then, 71 in 1982, 100 in 1983, 96 in 1984 and in 1985—till today—53. Why I am quoting these figures is to show that the number of dacoities is increasing, and unless something is done we cannot prevent these dacoities. Here even the Indian Penal Code as it is today or even the Criminal Procedure Code is not going to help in any manner. There must be some changes in the Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code because these Acts has been framed long long ago. There must be some amendments made therein in order to punish persons committing dacoity, fraud and misappropriation of funds. There must be some changes in the law. These laws are not sufficient in these times to give appropriate punishment to those who are committing these frauds and dacoities.

Lastly, Madam, it is stated that even though the Reserve Bank of India is doing inspection of all these banks, due to the enormity of the network of banks—there are nearly 40,000 branches—the inspection is not to their satisfaction. They say that due to the large number of branches enormous amounts of money are given as advances and loans and therefore, the work of the banks also has increased and therefore, inspection by the Reserve Bank is also faulty. At the same time, audit which is being done by Chartered Accountants must not be allowed to be done by the Chartered Accountants and it should be done by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. Even now the Chartered Accountants are feeling that they are not getting proper information and so they are unable to do proper accounting.

With these words, Madam. I conclude my speech.

THE VICE--CHAIRMAN [DR. fSHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI]: Mr. Dhabe. I would request you to take only three minutes.

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra) : Madam Vice-Chairman, the Resolution is very important. And I support the Resolution move,} by my friend and esteemed colleague, Shri Ramakrishnan. I would like to say that the time has come in our country to have a wage policy. Unless we have got a policy on income, prices and wages, no progress is possible.

By our actions we are creating more disparities in the pay scales, by creating new pay scales for the rural bank employees. Even the Diple Commission in UK and in our country the Lingam Committee have said **that** there must be some parity between the lowest paid man and the highest paid man in the country.. that it should be limited to 1:10. We have not made a start even. The lowest-paid, man is paid Rs. 400 to Rs. 600. and the highest one is paid more than Rs. 10,000. Why should there be the chaos at least in -the pay scales in the organised sector? On this aspect, a month back or so recommendations

I Shri S. W. Dhabe]

were made that two ways were open to the Government. One is to have amalgamation of the banks. The Banking Commission, in fact, in 1970 had gone into the matter. Then, the Majiubhai Shah Commission was appointed in 1976. And, thereafter the James Raj Commission in 1978 recommended that the number of the nationalised banks should be reduced and that the course of amalgamation must be started: In fact, our esteemed Chairman, when he was the Finance Minister in 1980 was also of the opinion at that time that these banks should be merged and that a scheme of merger should be evolved. I fail to understand why the Government i? shy of not having one bank of India so that all amalgamation takes place and the multiplication of works stops in the country. It is high time. The nationalisation was done in 1969, and merely beating drums in 1985 by Mr. Kalpnath Rai is not going to solve the question. Therefore, further steps a^{re} necessary to streamline the working of the banks, which will eliminate the frauds and will also add to the efficiency of the workers.

Therefore, my first suggestion to the Minister is that thi$_s$ is high time that h$_e$ should take steps for amalgamation and for having one bank in our country. If one bank is formed, the question of uniformity of the pay scales will be solved. Otherwise, there must be a pay commission. If il is not covered by th$_e$ Fourth Pay Commission, immediately a committee should be appointed to have uniformity in the pay scales of the bank employees. The other day the Minister was saying that the rural banks have got different pay scales. In fact, today, the commercial bank employees are paid three times more than what is. paid to the rural bank employees; simple because they are in villages, they are paid less, and the State Government salary is the pattern. On lendings the rural banks are charging the same rate of interest as the commercial banks and other. So far as the service conditions are concerned. they are very poor.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI): Dhabeji, I would like to request you. So many Members have participated. You give an opportunity to the Minister also t$_0$ reply.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: I am finishing in a minute. I am not speaking idly. I know, five minutes were 11 Hie. I know the time schedule. I must hear the Minister.

For the rural bank$_s$ to do this, there is n$_0$ justification. Having the lending rate at the same rate as the commercial bank$_s$ and then paying less to the workei¯s is not proper.

There i$_s$ a feeling in the country that Parliament has no control over the banks. Under these circumstances, the Resolution is very essential, and the Government should accept it and appoint a committee.

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI]: Mr. T. K. Ramamurthy. I request you to take two minutes only.

SHRI THINDIVANAM K. RAMAMURTHY (Nominated): Madam Vice-Chairman, I have only one suggestion to make. There was an observation very recently by the Minister of State for Finance. He said that only the banks have been nationalised and that the minds of the people who are serving in the banks are yet to be nationalised. That is the problem, and that is the crux of the matter.

About the fraud and other things that have been mentioned by the Mover of the Resolution, I can say-only one thing. There ar$_e$ frauds. But how far? What is the extent of our advancement in the field of loans, in the field of industries? And whe rever frauds have taken place. .....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI}: Already some hon. Members have spoken about it. Ther$_e$ is no use repeating it.

SHRI THINDIVANAM K. RAMA-MURTHY: Madam, I am not repeating. I am making another point. When the advances are given by the banks, it concerns other departments like Industries, etc. Therefore, they have given room for these frauds. Can any one accuse that the political element is involved in all these sane-ion of loans. Now, a time has come to review our banking system. As far as the modilisation capacity is concerned, it has given more room for certain malpractices. Madam, various State Governments in the country deposit the funds at their disposal in certain banks at the will and pleasure of the Chairmen of the Corporation concerned or th$_e$ Minister concerned; and the allowable percentage of commission is 7 per cent. When it goes to lakhs and crores of rupees you can imaging the percentage of commission to the Chairman of the Corporation or others who hold official or non-official position. Madam; I want the Government to check these things. (Time *bell rings)* Madam, I am concluding.

We know that in the recent past a number of dacoity incidents took place but were they with the conclusion of banking officials, if it is not in collusion with the banking officials then it is a question of law and order. Then it has to be tackled from th$_e$ law and order point of view. We also know that the question of law and order is vested with the concerned State Governments: However, I can definitely say that wherever the incidents of dacoity have taken place we can look into them only if they were in connivance with the banking officials. *(Time belt rings)* Madam, before concluding I would like to suggest one more point. As far as the welfare programmes are concerned, the fraud or malpractices have definitely not taken place to the extent we fear. I have not found any fraud in in$_v$ State when loans were extended under IRDP or NREP programme for the people who are below the poverty lino. There might be cases of harassment to poor people while extending loans by the banking officials. I can say that fraud has not taken place in the above cases. But in the case of advancement of loans fo$_r$ bigger business houses, fraud is there.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN [DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI]: I request the hon. Member to conclude.

SHRI THINDIVANAM K RAMA-MURTHY: Madam, from that angle banking sector ha$_s$ succeeded in implementing sociai welfare scheme?. That must be acknowledged.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY (West Bengal): Madam, I just want to take a minute only. The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for 1983-84 ha, said that Rs. 60 crores was the extent of fraud committed by the official? who are responsible for distribution of loans to the people who live below the poverty line. And that was done in connivance with the banking officials. That is the Government report.

SHRI THINDIVANAM K. RAMA MURTHY; Perhaps that might have taken place in the State to which he belongs. Madam, I come from a dis trict where nearly 47,000 people have received loans under these .-schemes in one day and Rs. 15 crores was di buted. There was not a single inci dent of fraud, corruption or hai ment. I a.m glad to sav that i \ schemes are becoming and more I popular. I think it is only the social awarenes thai can put and end to kind of corruption in implementing the social welfare schemes, whereas in other schemes where people want ! to get loans from the banks their own ends there are frauds. It is for Li$_s$ t$_0$ support the Government

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in implementing these schemes honestly. At the same time, the Government should take strong action against the officials who are indulging in corruption. Thank you.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramamurthy, would you like the Minister to intervene now because we e to finish this by 5 P.M.

SHRI THINDIVANAM K. RAMAMURTHY; Yes Madam.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): Madam, Deputy Chairman, at the very ou1 el. I thank the Hon'ble Member from Tamil Nadu, Shri R. Ramakrishnan for bringing this resolution before the Houae for giving all of us an opportunity to go through the operation of the banks on the floor of this House. Madam, about 15 members have taken part on the debate. The members who have taken part are—Shri Rameshwar Thakur, Shri Hukmdeo Nara-yan Yadav, Shri Nand Kishore Bhatt, Shri Sankar Prasad Mitra. Shri H. Hanumanthappa, Shri Xailash Pati Mishra, Shri M S. Ramachandran. Prof. C. Lakshmanna, Shrimati Shanti Pahadia, Shri Kalpnath Rai, Shri Kuahnoor, Shri S. W. Dhabe. Shri Ramamurthy and another member. The resolution speaks about the need of the hour—that means that we should go in for the appointment of some committee for the operation of th.e banking sector. Hon'ble Member h?.-. stated that the banks has not been mad[1]? accountable to the Parliament. The time has come even after the nationalisation, now *16* years have passed and it is to look into the operations of the banking sector by a Parliamentary Committee. Sir. as you know, there is spectacular expansion that taken place after the nationalisa-of the banks. At the time of nationalisation —*i.e.* in the year 1969. there were 8262 branches. Today, we have got more than 49.000 branches. Madam, here, when we nationalised the banks, only 1832 branches were in the rural areas which accounted to 22.2 per cent. Now, we have got more than 28,000 branches in the rural areas. At the time of nationalisation, their deposit's was to the tune of Rs. 4.646 crores. Today, we have got more than Rs. 75,000 crores. So far as the advances are concerned, when the nationalisation took place, advances— outstanding advances was to the tune of Rs: 3949 crores. Today, we have got more than 50,000 crores which has been given as advances to the people of this country. The credit deposit ratio for the country is today more than 60 per cent. Now, Madam, we have got a figure of 7 lakhs so far as the employees arc concerned. More than 7 lakhs employees are working in the banking sector. When the banking development has taken place in this magnitude, we know that there are deficiencies and also some lapses in the working of the banking sector. Madam, what are the machineries that have been operating in the country to go into the operations of the banking rector? The hon. Member, Mr. Rama-krishnan, has made a point that there is no machinery so far as Parliament-is concerned to go into the working of the banking sector. Madam, as you know, inside this supreme body, hon. Member^ who share the concern regarding the deficiencies and lapses which are found in the banking sector, are putting questions. When questions are put and when we answer the auestions which are put in Parliament, I feel personally that we have to thank the Parliament Mem-berc for putting probing questions that go to tile root of the functioning of the banking sector. When you ask for details and when We reply giving information, the entire gamut of banking operation.? is gone into. So many questions are put, particularly about the banking sector. And out of 200 unstarred questions, we have to answer about 40 to 50 questions per day about the banking sector and the banking institutions. Now, apart from this, the Estimates Committee had gone into the gamut of operations of

the banking sector. Not only this, as you know, the honourable and distinguished member from the Janata Party, Shri Era Sezhiyan, as Chairman of the Committee on Paper s Laid on the Table went into the details of the banking operations and submitted a report bringing out irregularities and non-reconciliation of inter-branch accounts. Before that, I went and paid surprise visits and i also brought to the notice of Parliament and the banking sector that inter-branch reconciliation had not been done for the last 12 years. That was the position in some of the branches. Apart from these, as you know, Madam we have got other machineries also like statutory auditors. These statutory auditors are being appointed by the Reserve Bank of India and also the Government. These statutory auditors also go into the operation of the banking sector. Apart from these people, Madam, as Ministers, as Government, we arc also regularly, on a quarterly basis, •monitoring and going into the operation of the banking sector. In additioi to that the hon. Members in their respective States, in their districts, in their blocks, are also involved a^ people's representatives. In the DIC, which is a Government body, Members of Parliament and Members of Legislatures are also participating. So you are in a position to look into their operations so far a<-, the programmes for the weaker sections are concerned. Now, what i<5 the position? Let us come to the operation side. We have got a priority sector. In 1&69 we were able

to give only Rs. 441 crores to the priority sector a< advance. Nov/, it is more than Rs. 18.000 crores. Percentage-wise it is 40.4 per cent, the target was 40 ner cent We have crossed the target. We have got other programmes like IRDP. The target hap been given. For the information of honourab'e Members, the target during the Sixth Five Year Plan was Rs. 3000 crores. That has to flow from the IRDP from the banking sector and the cooperative sector. What was the amount we have given? Have we been able to reach the target? What was the performance of the cooperative banks which are controlled by the State Government and what is the performance of the commercial banks under the IRDP during the Sixth Plan? A sum of Rs. 3000 crores has to flow on a 50:50 basis. The performance of the banking sector is to the tune of 80 per cent and the cooperative sector's performance is only 20 per cent. This is the performance .. .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, how long will you take more? | Shri Ramakrishnan has also to reply to the resolution and there are only 7-8 minutes left to close this discussion.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI-. I will try to conclude, Madam.

Now, therefore, we cannot say that the banking sector is not performing well. Of course, there are lapses, there are deficiencies, as I have said earlier. Honourable Members from both sides of the House have also pointed out several cases of fraud. The Government is seized of the matter. We also share the concern of the Members who have taken part in the debate and brought Out the deficiencies in a very effective man- ner. I must congratulate the Members for bringing to the notice of the Government so many of the happenings in the banks. We have debated thir, subject for three days, that is, on three occasions now. What have we done? The very fact that we have dis cussed it on the floor of the House such a length showc our concern for the banking operations in the country. One honourable Member from the Communist Party of India said it iq not the intention to go into each and every constituent of the banking sector. It is not the intention to elicit information regarding individual constituents. That is correct. He is correct in his submission. It i=: not the intention of the legislation. It is not the intention of Members of Parliament *to* go into the operation

[Shri lanardhan Poojari] of the banking seotor in detail. In-depth check is not going to help us. As you know, the banking sector is a sensitive institution. We have to maintain the confidence of the people. Here is a commercial institution. We have to keep that in mind. Now, the honourable Member, Mr. Ramakrishnan or Poojari, nobody will like to know the details of the accounts of Mr. Ramakrishnan or Poojari. Nobody wants it, and it is not the intention of our parliamentarians also, what is the amount that has been drawn by Mr. Ramakrishnan or Poojari or by somebody. It is not our case. What is our case? We want to go into the operation, whether we can bring improvement. We have done it. The very fact that this resolution has come here is an opportunity for the honourable Members to come before Parliament and to speak on the operation ana? it is for the Government to take note of it and also it is for the Government to take action and we have been taking steps so far as fraud is concerned....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Poojari, within five minutes the resolution is lapsing. The mover of the resolution wants to say something in reply....

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: I will just finish in five minutes....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; But in five minutes the resolution itself will lapse. We cannot proceed with this after 5. We have to take up some other business

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: So, Madam, so far as frauds are concerned, I have brought to the notice of honourable House the steps that have been taken by the Government and also by the banking sector and I have also brought to the notice of the House earlier in the course of replies to Starred Questions on the floor of the House. We have brought to the notice of the House the steps that we have been taking so far as dacoities are concerned. It is true thai[1] ^lere is an increase in the number of frauds and there is an increase in the number of dacoities. But I have given the figures also. What is the amount that is involved? It is about given the figures also. What is the amount that is involved? It is about Rs. 38 crores or Rs. 39 crores. With regard to the dacoities, I have already stated the amount. What *is* the amount that is involved? The amount that is involved is about 1J crores of rupees, or so. It is not our intention to defend this. But the point that has been made is that if there is a big sector like the banking sector, \v« do not say that there will not be any fraud and we cannot say that there cannot be any dacoity. But we can only say that we are taking steps to reduce them. Some people say that there is an increase in the number of frauds: But what used to be the case previously? The frauds were not detected for yeans together, for **five** years or for seven years. They were not detected at all. But, becau the steps that we "nave taker: because of the inter-branch reconciliation that is being done now, these frauds have been brought to light and they have been brought to the surface and the frauds are detected in time and action is being taken. It is because of the steps that we have taken, Madam, that we have been able to bring down the number of such

Madam, the honourable Member, Ramakrishnanj'i, in his opening speech, stated that he knows that the Government would not accept the proposal for the appointment of a Committee. And, Madam, I say that it is not possible. Already we have got the machinery to look into the operations of the banking sector Let us all Join together and see that there is improvement. At the same time. Madam, my request is this: Let ua not bring down the image of the banking sector. After all, it is a vital organisation and it is a vital institution. There are black sheeps. I do agree that some black sheeps are there. Bat to say that all the people are bad, *1I the

people are black sheeps, is not in the interest of the employees also. Let us identify the black sheeps and let us punish them. Let us weed them out. Then only we can take action. This is the submission I am making and, therefore, I request the honourable Member to withdraw his Resolution. Thank you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; Now, Mr. R. Ramakrishnan. You have got only 3 minutes.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, I know that we are running against time.

Madam, 1 am thankful to all the honourable Members. As many as 16 of them have participated in this discussion which has spread over two Private Members' days, I am also thankful to the honourable Minteter of State for Finance who has been present here and who has been carefully listening to the points. I am also thankful to the honourable Minister of Finance, the Cabinet Minister, who has Just come in despite his busy schedule .....

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH); Just for you only.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN... for listening to my reply.

Madam, it was never my intention to criticisie the nationalisation of banking. It fact, the nationalisation of the banking sector was one of the major bold steps taken by Mrs. Indira Gandhi during her first tenure and the entire country welcomed this measure. What I wanted in my Resolution was this; T had only stated that despite sixteen years having elapsed since nationalisation, the banks have not been made accountable to Parliament in a proper manner. You must read my Resolution carefully. Many of the honourable Members have said that I have stated that the banks have not been made accoun table to Parliament. I beg to differ, I have *only* *aid that the banks have not been made accountable in a proper manner. What the honourable Members from the Congress (I), benches, excepting a few like my good friend. Shri Kalpnath Rai. who supported me have mi$sed is this that neither the Public Accounts Committee for nor the Committee on public Undertakings has been given the power to go into the working of the banks and the banks do not come under their purview.

Madam, this has been specifically excluded. 1 say that like any other commercial undertaking, the Committee on public Undertak-5 P.M. ings should go into the banking sector also. So, what I have said is that in view of the increasing number of banks frauds, in view of the numerous incidents of dacoities, in view of the various problems with banks, I have suggested that, although I know it will be a far cry for the Government to appoint, over and above the head of the Reserve Bank, a committee perpetually to go into the working[1] of ; bank^, at least as a one time measure, to appoint a committee under a Supreme Court Judge, consisting not merely of Members of Parliament but also expert,, in finance and banking.

Madam, I know the Prime Minister has got a very important statement to make. I will just make one point before concluding, quoting the hon. Prime Minister's own mother and our dear and respected leader. Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi. She only said this at the time of nationalisation of banks.-

> "An institution such as the banking system which touches and should touch the lives of the millions hag necessarily to be inspired by large social purposes and subserve all national priorities and objective^."

Since many of the committees like the I Estimates Committee and other financial committees only go into the periphery of the banking system from

[Shri R. Ramakrishna]

time to time, I had asked that Parliament should appoint a committee. However, I know the commitments of the Minister of State for Finance. He is one person who has put many of the arrogant Bank chairman in their place, and I congratulate him. He has also done quite a lot for the poor people by organising 'loan melas', which I support—only, of course, you must ensure that they are returned. And since this opportunity has been given to Us to discuss the whole thing in detail, I bow to his wishes and withdraw my Resolution by leave of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Unconditional withdrawal.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER,

Elections in Punjab

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; Mr. Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Madam Deputy Chairman, Hon'ble members are aware that the schedule for elections in Punjab has been announced by the Election Commission.

The primacy of the electoral process in our country is obvious; it needs no special emphasis.

It its well understood by our people that the right to vote is their instrument for achieving progress and prosperity.

However, in the context of recent events in Punjab, the electoral process has also acquired a new national significance.

The fundamental issue now before all political parties committed to the democratic system is:

Shall we allow the exercise of the free will of the people to be obstructed, frustrated and subverted by the forces of extremism and terrorism?

On a correct response to this question hingec, the fate of the democratic system in India.

Either all political parties unitedly face the sinister challenge of terrorism by strengthening the democratic process or they succumb to the threat from terrorism and extremism.

In Punjab all else is secondary.

How individual parties fare is of little consequence. It does not matter who wins and who loses.

What matters, is that the lamp of democracy is not extinguished: what does matter is that India wins. The people of India have shown that they value democratic rights and freedom above everything else; the political parties that reprasent them value democracy no less.

A democratic election is the people's answer to the brute force employed by a small section to impose their will en the masses. We shall not allow divisive forces to prevail.

We shall serve as the instrument to enable the democratic process *to* triumph whatever the risk to ourselves .

As the custodian of the people's will and mandate, I am fully commit-ed to this course.

Our democratic society has the inner strength to close its ranks to face the dangers that confront it.

We shall demonstrate that we are capable of rising above expediency.

Let us, who value the ideals that have built this Nation, together accept this challenge.